

12 May 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senator John Stennis re
Director's Address to Business Council

1. Pursuant to the Director's instructions I called on Senator Stennis today and told him the Director was concerned about the leak of some of his remarks at the Business Council meeting at Hot Springs and wanted the Senator to know the facts. I said the Director's talk had been strictly off the record and informal but that unfortunately a couple of press reporters had sneaked in through the kitchen and listened at the door. I said the points they had published were roughly accurate but that these were about the only points the Director had made of current significance--that the bulk of his talk was merely an historical review of how certain current issues had evolved over the years. I explained to the Senator that we attached considerable importance to maintaining the cooperation and good will of business leaders such as those making up the Council, since their assistance had proved very helpful in a number of respects [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Finally, I said that nothing classified or controversial had been revealed.

2. The Senator said he was glad to hear this--that when I had started out he was afraid we had a serious problem. He said he hadn't seen the press accounts of the matter, but he agreed that it was desirable for the Agency to keep on good terms with members of the Business Council.

3. The Senator said he had been deeply concerned over the President's revelation of apparently sensitive information regarding the EC 121 incident, and asked my views about how serious this was and whether I thought the [REDACTED]

25X1 [redacted] I said I didn't know the answer to this question, but I felt sure the President had weighed all the facts before speaking publicly.

4. In conclusion, the Senator said he much appreciated our informing him of the facts behind the Hot Springs incident.

[redacted]
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